

# Environmental Water Caucus

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Telephone 415-831-3414

Mr. Thomas N. Clark  
Kern County Water Agency

Mr. Byron M. Buck  
California Urban Water Agencies

BY FAX

Dear Tom and Byron:

Thank you for your letter of April 7, and for taking the time on April 3 to meet with a number of Environmental Water Caucus (EWC) representatives in San Francisco to attempt to clarify for us the "progress and purpose" of the initial meetings between many of the agricultural and urban water agencies and interests who are also actively involved in the CALFED Bay-Delta process. (I apologize for the delay in response, but I have been out of the country for three weeks.) In both cases, you made clear that your intent is to develop "an open, collaborative process between all interest groups to provide CALFED with consensus and cooperatively developed input concerning the long-term solutions to Bay-Delta problems."

It is difficult for many of us to reconcile your April 3 presentation and your April 7 letter with the explanations set forth in the February 4, 1997 EBMUD board memo<sup>1</sup> or in the February 25, 1997 MWD board memo.<sup>2</sup> Also, as you know, an important related issue for several EWC members was and remains your choice for a process facilitator/mediator whose principal prior experience in California water affairs resulted in an agreement between agricultural and urban water contractors and the state Department of Water Resources on the future of the State Water Project, about which we continue to have significant procedural as well as substantive concerns.

As an immediate follow-up to our April 3 meeting, and cognizant of your request for EWC participation in a stakeholder process of uncertain dimension, our Caucus has initiated a review of the many CALFED (and related) issues that currently need focused attention, as well as the resources potentially available to do so. (As you know, the relative paucity of human as well as financial resources has been a long-standing EWC

<sup>1</sup> The EBMUD memorandum refers to "a major, emerging coordinated effort by statewide urban and agricultural stakeholders to develop a mediated or facilitated preferred alternative in concert with the CALFED Bay-Delta program."

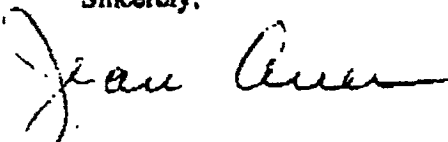
<sup>2</sup> The MWD memorandum states that "California's major urban and agricultural water agencies have agreed to formally work together [through] a facilitated process to ... develop a recommended water-user CALFED proposal."

concern.) Moreover, while our fundamental priority is and remains the integrity of the CALFED process, we will, as always, be looking for appropriate ways to facilitate and support meaningful stakeholder dialogue as part of our overall effort. (The recent joint testimony of the California Bay-Delta Water Coalition in support of the President's FY98 funding level request for \$143 million in new funds for Bay-Delta ecosystem restoration--a request recently endorsed by Governor Wilson as well--is an important recent example.)

When you have concluded your Phase I process, we would be pleased to reconvene to review what you have done in detail, and to discuss potential next steps as well as barriers, constraints, and related concerns. In the meantime, given the open nature of your discussions, we would appreciate being kept apprised of your scheduled meetings so that interested EWC members can attend, as time and resources permit, on behalf of their own organizations. We would also appreciate copies of all distributed materials and information, meeting notes, attendance lists, and any revised communications from or with EBMUD, MWD, and other involved boards and staff as to the clarified intent and purpose of your ongoing discussions.

Please contact Roberta Borgonovo directly at 415-931-4605 to arrange for the best and easiest way to do all of this. And again, thank you very much for all your efforts.

Sincerely,



Jean Auer, Convener  
Environmental Water Caucus

cc:

Tom Hurlbutt  
Dan Nelson  
Tim Quinn  
Allen Short  
Doug Wallace